

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-46 are pending in the case.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection – Terminal Disclaimer Concurrently Filed

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 18, 23-25, 30 and 36-39 for obviousness-type double patenting over the claims in U.S. Patent Application SN 09/480,058. Rather than argue about the merits of this rejection, Applicants have concurrently filed a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Additional Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicants have concurrently filed an additional supplemental IDS. Consideration of the references cited therein is respectfully requested.

Objection to FIG. 1B and Amendment to the Drawings

Applicants have amended FIG. 1B to change the orientation of lettering to address the objection of the Draftsman. It is noted that the orientation of the lettering for the “isolation interface” 164 and 166 now matches the orientation for the “isolation” barrier 104 in FIG. 1A, which was deemed acceptable by the Draftsman. A replacement sheet and an annotated sheet of drawings have been enclosed. Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered and that amended FIG. 1B be accepted.

Claims Indicated as Allowable and Rejected Claims

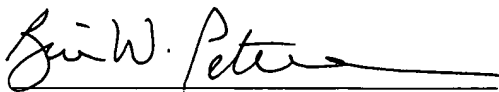
Applicants respectfully acknowledge the indication of allowability for claims 5, 10-17, 19-22, 26-29, 31-35 and 40-46. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 18, 23-25, 30 and 36-39 were rejected only under obviousness-type double patenting. As stated above, a Terminal Disclaimer has been concurrently filed to obviate this rejection. An indication of allowance for the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Peterman", written over a horizontal line.

Brian W. Peterman
Registration No. 37,908
Attorney for Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, LLP
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 347-1611
FAX: (512) 347-1615